if any, to Coal India Limited at present.

**National Power Grid**

654. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cal led for implementation of the con cept for national grid in the power sector soon;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to include private Sector for its implementation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Government of India have accepted in principle the need for a National Power Grid. Such a Grid is an evolutionary process requiring appropriate interconnections and strengthening of the various State Systems and the Central Sector EHV transmission lines. As a step towards formation of the National Grid, Regional EleGtrieity Boards have been set up to accelerate the process of integrated operation of the regional systems. The Central Electricity Authority is carrying out studies in regard to the transmission system needed for the ultimate formation of the National Grid.

(c)' and (d) There is no proposal at present to associate the Private Sector in the development of the National Power Grid.

New Drug Policy

655. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PA NICKER: Will the Minister of IN DUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new drug policy has since been formulated by Gov-eminent; if so, what are the details, thereof; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above ber in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay and by when the policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH):
(a) and (b) The matter is still under the consideration of Government, as a number of important issues is in volved.

**Board to boost biogas programme**

656. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL-. Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Board or Commission to develop biogas programme in order to boost its production and use; and

(b)i if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and
(b) Commission for Additional Sou rces of Energy (CASE) already exists which has taken policy decisions dur ing last two years that have boosted the biogas programme and other non-conventional energy programmes. The CASE consists of. Secretary, Depart ment of Non-conventional Energy Sources as Chairman; Secretaries of Departments of Expenditure, Power, Science & Technology, Planning Com mission; Director-General of India Council of Agricultural Research and Chairman, Khadi and Village Indus tries Commission.

**Issue of letter of intent for cement plant in Tamil Nadu**

657. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that art application from the Government of